



John Reich Journal

Volume 7 / Issue 2

January 1993

JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues \$10.00

For general membership information write to:

Office of the President, David J. Davis

P.O. Box 205, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

The **John Reich Journal** is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die varieties, die states of published die varieties, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc. Inquiries about specific varieties will be directed to one of the experts in that series. All correspondence should be directed to:

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Cover Photos: 1825 UNIQUE O118 Capped Bust Half Dollar. This is the discovery piece found in Oregon in 1983.

Courtesy of: East coast collector who is currently the owner.

John Reich Journal

Official publication of the
John Reich Collector's Society

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Editors' Comments

"There has been more numismatic literature printed in the last 20 years than the previous 100." - Ken Lowe

"... And there will probably be that much more produced in the next 20." - Editors

This quote by Ken, a numismatic bookseller (Money Tree, Rocky River, Ohio), began our thinking of our responsibility as co-editors of the **JR Journal**. We must strive, with each issue, to print only accurate information that will become part of the expanding pool of numismatic knowledge. We are, however, dependent on you, the membership, to provide the original research necessary to complete our task.

The number of specialty clubs has grown tremendously over the last couple of decades. Most of these clubs are now providing journals of information written by their members. This contrasts the previous years when most of the articles were presented in general numismatic publications like: **Numismatic Scrapbook**, **The Numismatist**, **Coin World**, **Numismatic News**, and others.

Early American Coppers (EAC) is the prototype specialty club from which the rest of us were spawned. They began their existence in 1967 with their publication **Pennywise**. They recently released their 153rd issue. Many exceptional, and controversial, articles have appeared in **Pennywise's** 25 year history. Their members should be congratulated for their efforts to enrich numismatics.

The Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC) has provided a quality journal (**The Gobrecht Journal**) for their membership since 1974. They have had articles educating their membership on minting techniques, economic conditions of the Liberty Seated Era, and numerous unlisted Liberty Seated varieties. These efforts have enriched not only us, but future generations of collectors and researchers.

There are many other specialty clubs that provide a vehicle for their membership to publish their research. Each editor strives to include original, insightful

information for the enjoyment of their members. The authors are not always 100% correct, but they do contribute valuable information to supplement what has already been printed. Every article published becomes part of the permanent record of numismatics that future generations of researchers will use to educate themselves. We are using the works of Beistle, Overton, Valentine, Browning, Bolander, and many others as our research base. We must question their works and strive to improve them. When we publish our data in the journals, we share our observations and ideas with other collectors. This exchange of information is the basis of our very existence.

Past generations of collectors were hampered by the lack of communication. Most collectors were concentrated around the business capitals of the time. There was little chance for the isolated collector (or potential collector) to participate in the hobby. There were very few journals or magazines available to keep up with the hobby. The collectors residing in larger cities had their local coin clubs where they could exchange information. Here, the less informed collector could learn from their more experienced club members. The isolated collector, however, was doomed to a life of 'self discovery' and inadequate information. They rarely became a contributor to the pool of numismatic knowledge.

We have now progressed to the point where anyone can keep up with the latest developments in the hobby. They are in touch with the latest research and the most influential writers in our hobby through the **JR Journal**. We will continue to strive to supply you with the best in numismatic research. We are indebted to the past authors and hope that each of you will continue to contribute for the future of our club. All of numismatics will be richer for your efforts.

We would like to continue by correcting some errors from 1992. First and foremost, the ZIP Code listed in the treasurer's report in Volume 7, Issue 1 was incorrect. Please note that the correct ZIP Code for Harrison, Ohio is 45030. Resolution number one is to proofread more carefully. The article by Michael Hodder also included a typo on page 23. The correct year for **The Numismatist** article referenced is January, 1922 not January, 1992. Michael also informed us

that there were two typos in the recent Starr sale by Stack's. Please note that Lot #356 was a JR2 and Lot #358 was a JR5. We hope this helps, and would like to thank Michael for the information. Our last error was that we incorrectly reported that J. Alan Bricker was part of the constitutional committee. Please note that Allen Lovejoy is actually serving the club in that capacity. Thank you, Allen, Russ and John for your help with this project.

We have had many requests recently for information as to who can provide quality photographs for publication. Please let us know if you are capable, and willing, to provide this service to the club. We will publish a list of those wishing to offer their services. Please inform us of any charges and/or requirements for your services.

We mentioned in the last journal that we have had our personal journals (Volume 1 through Volume 5) bound in a custom full leather binding. This service is available to the membership for \$100, including shipping. Should you have any interest in this service please contact us for more information. Some of the proceeds from each binding goes to the club's treasury. We would also like to remind you that the back issues are now priced at \$4.50 each postpaid. Many issues are in short supply with Volume 1, Issue 1 (January, 1986), and Volume 5, Issue 3 (December, 1990) completely sold out.

Stack's recently sold the Bust Dime collection of William Subjack, an author of **Early United States Dimes 1796-1837**. They were included in the Stack's December 2-3, 1992 sale, Part II. These coins have an important pedigree since they are from one of the authors of the standard reference of this series. We have been in contact with Tom Panichella at Stacks, after learning that the original envelopes from Bill were not included with the coins when sold. Stacks has most of the envelopes and will supply them to the successful bidders under the following conditions:

- 1) Contact Mr. Panichella in writing, identifying the lots you purchased.
- 2) Identify the bidder if you purchased your coins through an agent.
- 3) Include a self addressed stamped envelope with your request.

Mr. Panichella can be contacted at: Stack's, 123 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019-2280. We would like to thank Mr. Panichella, and Stacks, for their cooperation in distributing this valuable provenance information to the owners of these coins. We would, however, hope that all auction companies would make it a policy to include such documentation with the coins as a standard practice. This would be advantageous to all the parties involved. The winning bidder would have a complete record of their new coins previous owners. The auction company would probably realize a higher price for the coin and with it a higher commission. The seller would also realize a higher price for their consignment. Please refer to Russ Logan's article *Provenance & Protection For Posterity* in Volume 6, Issue 2, (April, 1992) page 10 of the **JR Journal**, as well as Ed Price's letter which appears on page 10 of this journal for more input on this subject.

There are two offers from the membership we would like to mention. Stephen Herrman is still offering his prices realized list (covering sales from 1988 to 1992) of R5-R8 Bust Half Dollars for \$10. He is donating \$2.50 from each sale to the JRCS treasury. You can order one from him at: 2817 Jay Street, Denver, CO 80227. David Finkelstein has developed a computer program to assist in attributing Capped Bust Half Dollars. The program runs on MS DOS systems (please specify 3.5" or 5.25" diskette when ordering). The cost is \$10 and David will donate half of each sale to the club's treasury. He can be contacted at: 43147 Hadley Court, Canton, MI 48158. Thank you both for your generous offers, the club appreciates your efforts.

We leave you to your JR Journal with one last thought -

Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry [or hobby] in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere.

President Theodore Roosevelt, 1908

[ed. - Thanks to M.S. for this timely quote.]

Bradley S. Karoleff / Keith G. Bellman

Plaudits, Pans and Perplexing Points

JRCS

In response to your desire for four editions per year and increased funds to support the additional costs I would like to suggest the following:

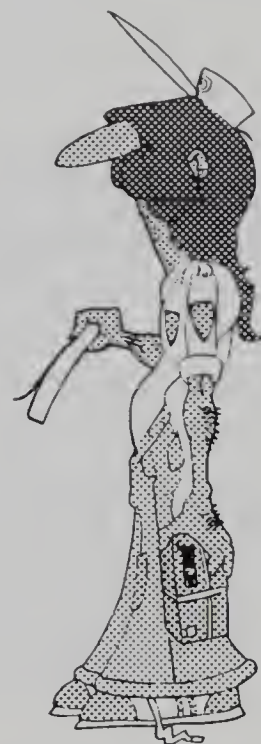
Lets open the **JR Journal** up to paid display ads and encourage more membership classifieds. This is not a new idea as it was discussed in the first few issues of the journal. To my knowledge, not a single display ad has ever appeared, and member classifieds have been sporadic. There is no stated policy in the journal as to who may submit membership ads, how long they may be, and what, if any, is the cost. There is probably something about this in the by-laws, but I believe the policy should be printed in the journal on a regular basis.

While I do not wish to see the journal turned into a commercial publication, I believe there is a place for limited amounts of tastefully done display ads for numismatic items directly related to the John Reich Collectors Society areas of interest. Membership ads should also be encouraged with a direct statement in each issue concerning the rules and costs.

The specialized nature of the die varieties and types studied by the membership requires a special marketplace. Major dealers and major collectors will get together without additional advertising, but for the broader spectrum of JRCS collectors who wish to buy/sell/trade duplicates or excess material, this will serve a much needed facility. Both the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC) and the Early American Coppers (EAC) accept display advertising. EAC also allows small free member classified ads. This can generate enough revenue to forgo an increase in dues (although the suggested \$15 isn't really bad anyhow), add additional content to fill the increased space available, and assist members in buying/selling items that might not be suitable for ads in more general numismatic publications.

I think the concept needs to be discussed among the JRCS officers and membership, and if it seems a good idea then specific recommendations should be made as to maximum amount of ads, types of ads, rates, deadlines, etc. This could be brought up at the annual JRCS meeting at the 1993 Baltimore ANA Convention.

Robert Zavos



Editor's Response:

Mr. Zavos' suggestions are not new, but are well taken. The officers of the JRCS have talked about accepting ads since we have taken over as co-editors. The general consensus is that we wish to continue 'adless' as long as we can give the membership a quality journal at a competitive price. We feel that an 'information only' journal is more appealing to the majority of the membership. There are plenty of sources to buy and sell coins available to the membership without our competing for their advertisers.

There are many questions that would have to be answered if we decided to accept ads. We would have to determine how many pages would be sold for advertising, the cost of the ads, how we determine ad positions, deadlines and a policy if we happened to oversell the space. These, along with proofing responsibilities, would only add to our workload. We would also have to consider the possibility of becoming mediators on any disputed transaction involving our advertisers. This could possibly be a major problem.

We also currently have no conflicts of interest with our editorial comments. We do not have to weigh any of our opinions against future income considerations. Our only responsibility is to you, the membership. There are no 'deals' with advertisers or fear of lost revenues.

We would also like to show you the cost comparison of the **JR Journal** compared to the two clubs Mr. Zavos mentioned in his letter. We reviewed last year's journals and came up with the following comparisons versus the projected size of Volume 7 of the **JR Journal**.

Club	Number of Issues	Cost of Membership	Pages of Information ⁽¹⁾	Cost per page
JRCS ⁽²⁾	4	\$15.00	160	.09375
LSCC	3	\$15.00	112	.13393
EAC	6	\$27.00 ⁽³⁾	340 ⁽⁴⁾	.07941

⁽¹⁾ Written pages counted, no ads were included.

⁽²⁾ Projected issues for 1993.

⁽³⁾ First class postage membership. Third class available at \$16.00 which does not guarantee delivery of journal.

⁽⁴⁾ Included 25th Anniversary Issue which was approximately double the size of a regular issue.

We spoke to an officer of EAC and were told that the ads are a 'break even proposition' for the club. He also informed us that the journal was partially subsidized by the profits from the yearly convention and auction. Also, when you factor in the size of the 25th anniversary issue, the 'normal' year would cost almost the same per page as the projected cost for JRCS.

We feel that all three clubs offer much for their membership and highly recommend joining if you are not already a member. The comparisons shown were chosen only by the fact that Mr. Zavos mentioned these clubs in his letter. Each club is at the forefront of their respective collecting area and are very highly respected. We can only hope that we gain the amount of respect for the **JR Journal** that each of the other editors have for their respective clubs.

We invite the membership to give their opinions on this, and any other issue they wish. We are here to serve your needs and will strive to supply you with the best product that we can produce. We do, however, need your input and opinions to 'customize' the journal to your desires. We thank Mr. Zavos for stating his opinion and invite others to contribute.

Also, please consider membership in:

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

\$15.00 First Class

5718 King Arthur Drive

Kettering, OH 45429

Early American Coppers

\$27.00 First Class, \$16.00 Third Class

P.O. Box 15782

Cincinnati, OH 45215



This is in response to Edgar E. Souders' comments in the last **JR Journal** Volume 7, Issue 1 (October, 1992) pertaining to his 30 questions article that was previously published.

Following my response to Edgar's question 22, he wrote under the date of August 21, 1992 the source of information just about as it appears on page 6 of the captioned journal issue.

At the time I wrote him suggesting that he be careful of secondary sources. From my primary sources, I will respond to the **Who was Who in America** quote.

Name:

- Who - says Johann Mathias Reich
- SPW - says Johann Matthäus Reich, from Baptism records

Birth:

- Who - says 1768
- SPW - says 1767, from Baptism records

Executed Medals:

- Who - says 1801 - 1813
- SPW - says 1801 - 1817, from correspondence between Reich, George Harrison (Naval agent in Philadelphia) and Benjamin Homans (Secretary of Navy in Washington, D.C.)

Died in Albany:

I and a cohort searched records 1830 - 1833 of the Albany Lutheran Church, cemeteries, city and county vital statistics records and directories. There was no evidence that he ever lived, worked or died in Albany.

Further, William Dunlap, who was a famous diarist and a contemporary of Reich's, writes in **A History of the Rise and Progress of The Arts of Design in the United States** that JMR "went west and died there." The book was published in New York City, 1834.

Stewart P. Witham



Russ Logan's article, *Provenance & Protection for Posterity*, in Volume 6, Issue 2 (April, 1992) of the **JR Journal** makes quite a bit of sense to me. I agree with Russ that the lack of provenance on early Federal coinage is frustrating. Further, slabs not only often result in lost provenance, but may even contribute to a coin losing its identity as to die variety. If a collector, or cataloguer, does not bother to maintain or determine die variety information, some bidders may not realize that the coin is rarer than it otherwise seems. Three examples of these concerns, and their potential impact on auction results follow:

- (1) In the 9/13/91 Christie's sale, Lot #298 was described under early half dimes as:

1800, About Uncirculated, pink and blue toning (NGC 58)

The coin was not illustrated. The description was accurate, but provided no hints as to variety or provenance. I happened to be at an otherwise dull coin show in New York during the weekend before the show and Christie's had brought auction lots to the show for inspection. I looked at the coin and believed it might be a V3, which is listed as R7 by Jules Reiver. I did not have much time and I was not sure of my attribution. The slab, of course, provided no indication of variety or provenance. A few days later, I went to Christie's and confirmed that the coin was indeed a V3. Using catalogue illustrations, I was able to trace the coin conclusively to an auction held about three years earlier (Heritage's 1988 ANA Sale, Lot #212), where the variety was identified. The coin sold for \$2640, a reasonable price for an AU 1800 Half Dime, but less than two thirds of the price that it sold for in the earlier auction. It is now de-slabbed and one of the highlights of my Early Half Dime collection.

- (2) In the 12/9/91 Stack's sale, Lot #1654 was described under the heading "Mint State 1795 Half Dime" as:

1795 Valentine 3. The advanced state of the dies, with stars 11-14 covered by a massive die break from the outer rim to the very inner star points . . . Undoubtedly the finest example known with this extensive break.

Both black and white and color plates were included. The description was accurate, but missed a few points:

- (a) V3 is a rare variety, listed as R7 by Jules Reiver.
- (b) There are several examples known with a die break as described. This coin actually has advanced to the cud state, where a portion of the die has apparently fallen out. I have not seen another coin of this variety which is this late a die state.
- (c) There was no provenance provided. This is the most significant point. I determined that the coin had appeared as Lot #270 in Stack's 6/16/87 Corrado Romano sale. This was a well known collection of U.S. coins, including many rarities. The Romano sale description provides quite a bit of important information on provenance, including two very significant items. The coin appeared in Stack's 10/5/60 Milton A. Holmes sale and is the Valentine plate coin. I believe that the Holmes collection was the most complete collection of Flowing Hair Half Dimes (1794-1795) ever sold at public auction. All 14 varieties were represented, many of them in very high grade.

The bidding at the 12/19/91 auction was an aggressive contest between a floor bidder and the book. The resulting winning floor bid of \$7450 was almost 30% above the Romano sale price of \$5775 and 25 times the Holmes sale price of \$290. Presumably, both bidders understood the rarity of the die state and/or the importance of the provenance. (The floor bidder certainly did.) The bidding might well have been even more aggressive if the coin's rarity and provenance had been fully described in the catalogue.

- (3) In the recent 11/20/92 Bowers and Merena sale, Lot #1240 was described under the heading "Memorable 1795 Half Dime" as:

1795 V-8. A Rarity-7 variety. MS-60 or finer . . . From Rarcoa's section of Auction '80, Lot 1593.

Both black and white and color plates were included. I believe that Bowers & Merena generally does a very good job of providing interesting and useful background information. In this case, the provenance was provided, but was inadequate. First was the minor point that the coin was Lot #1593 in Auction '88 rather than Auction '80. The Auction '88 listing provided no further information. However, I determined that the coin had appeared as Lot #228 in the Bowers & Ruddy 11/28/79 Garrett sale and that catalogue indicated that the coin was "from the collection of Dr. Edward Maris".

I suspect that none of the other bidders were aware of the coin's Garrett/Maris provenance. The winning bid on the coin was \$3520, about half of the \$7150 realized in Auction '88, and about 20% below the \$4500 realized in the Garrett sale in 1979.

One of Russ Logan's conclusions was that we should remind our favorite dealers "to preserve all traces of the pedigree." I hope that this letter demonstrates that it benefits both dealers and collectors when a coin's provenance is maintained and disclosed. However, when provenance is not disclosed, personal research is very clearly worth the effort.

Ed Price



The Third Edition of the Overton book describes the obverse of the 1795 O127 (OBV 16) half dollar as follows:

"All observed specimens show a die crack from edge through star 9 to bridge of nose."

At the mid-winter ANA show in Dallas in February 1992, I obtained a very nice example of this marriage from a very knowledgeable dealer. The coin is clean, original and I would grade it F-12. The unique thing about this coin is that there is absolutely no sign of any obverse die crack. Therefore, folks, do not use any obverse die crack as being diagnostic when you are looking at 1795 halves.

If anybody else happens to own a 1795 O127 without an obverse die crack, please write to me at: 6930 Gilbert Drive, Shreveport, LA 71106.

Charlton E. Meyer, Jr.



Michael Hodder's article in the last **JR Journal** is like a breath of fresh air for American federal numismatics. While Michael has attempted to define the circumstances under which the 'drop dead' (Proof, specimen, etc.)

federal coins were struck, he has humbly admitted that his hypothesis (and others) are only a guess. He has correctly reminded us that both the new sheet rolling mill (after the fire in 1816) and the closed collar edge die (1828) had a large influence in making what we now call modern 'proofs'. These facts, along with the contemporary, Mint produced medals, and our English fathers' mechanical and metallurgical innovations for producing coinage, may provide us with enough evidence to reconstruct the environment of our Federal Mint.

Now that we have re-opened Pandora's Box, let us unearth the evidence, be constructive with our criticism and prove our positions as scholars.

Russell J. Logan



I was intrigued by the statement that the JRCS has "experienced an average annual growth rate of 58%, something even ANA would envy." [ed. - quote from *Treasurer's Report*, page 40 of Volume 7, Issue 1 (October, 1992) of

the *JR Journal*.] Let's be honest, the ANA would envy any organization which is simply breaking even. The real growth in numismatics these past 5 to 10 years or so, has been in specialty clubs like the JRCS - something which the numismatic press is yet to recognize. Local coin clubs and the ANA simply do not meet the needs of specialty collectors like myself, or others that I know.

So numismatics is changing. It is becoming more sophisticated . . . more specialized, and the collectors are looking beyond their locale to national and even world-wide levels. What it will be like 20 years from now, nobody knows, but I would be willing to bet that the average collector will be older, more specialized and less provincial. The coins will always be and so too will the collectors.

Scott G. Grieb

P.S. Just how many JRCS members do we have now?

[ed. - We had just over 500 members as of the last mailing. Hopefully everyone will send in their dues and sign up for another year in a "more sophisticated . . . more specialized" JRCS.]

The Double Stripe Bust Quarter Reverse

John W. McCloskey

All but one of the Capped Bust Quarter reverses have three vertical lines in each stripe of the reverse shield. This remaining reverse has only two lines in each vertical stripe of the shield. This unusual reverse die has raised more questions and created more speculation for us than any other bust reverse that I have studied. This reverse was used to strike the 1833 B2 and 1834 B1 quarters and has many other interesting features besides the double stripes. The talons on both of the eagle's claws are strongly doubled and curve back up under the olive branch and arrow shafts. The shape of the talons on this reverse is like no other in the small size Capped Bust Quarter series.

Another difference is that there is no period after the C in 25C, but this characteristic is not unique to this reverse in the bust quarter series. There are also other subtle differences in the shape of the eagle's wings and neck that make this reverse design totally different from the others in the series. These are minor differences compared to the double stripes and bent talons.

More errors can be found in the lettering on the reverse. There is clear evidence of an earlier A punched into the field between the F in OF and the first A in AMERICA. The OF is connected at the top from the remains of an earlier punch. There are also fragments of earlier letters to the left of the first S in STATES, between TA In STATES and



1833 B2 double stripe reverse - Notice the double talons on both claws and no period after 25 C.

between R1 In AMERICA. It is likely that very early die states of the 1833 B2 quarter would show the remains of even more letters around the reverse. In his book on early Bust Quarters, A.W. Browning mentions the extra letters in the legend, and the doubled talons, but says nothing about the unusual double stripes in the reverse shield.

When I first noticed the double stripes many years ago, I thought that I had stumbled upon a bust quarter pattern. After all, none of the other reverses in the series had double stripes in the shield. It soon became apparent to me that this was not the case because the 1834 B1 quarter turned out to be very common. Still other questions remained. Why is there only one reverse in the series with double stripes and why was this design ever introduced into the quarter series? These questions would be hard to answer from the quarter series alone. One must take a broader look at operations at the Philadelphia Mint during the early part of the 19th century.



This reverse with the double stripes was used to strike the 1833 B2 and 1834 B1

Research has shown that the vertical stripes in the reverse shield were cut into the individual working dies during the period of the bust silver series. This has been determined because the vertical lines often extend up into the horizontal shield lines to varying lengths and down beyond the edge of the shield below. Cutting these lines must have been tedious difficult work because of the many extraneous line extensions that have been found on these coins. It is also clear that the mint was also having trouble with the deterioration of the dies in the area of the vertical stripes. The thin metal ridges between the vertical lines on the die would break down with continued use resulting in solid stripes on many coins. This is particularly evident on bust dimes dated 1825 and 1827. Even many Uncirculated specimens of these years will show shield lines that have been welded together after being struck from deteriorated reverse dies. Efforts must have been made to strengthen the reverse dies. When this failed, a double stripe reverse design must have been proposed to solve the problem. The first double stripe reverse was used in the bust dime series in 1829,

(continues on page 25)

On Defending One's Honor

Stephen A. Crain

Volume 6, Issue 2 (April, 1992) of the **JR Journal** presented Edgar Souders' entertaining and imaginative speculation regarding the origin of a very intriguing love token engraved on the reverse of a counterfeit 1831 Bust Half. The piece is doubly interesting in that it is scribed on an early half dollar, rather than on the more typical Liberty Seated Dime, and it is a bogus half to boot.

Shortly after reading Mr. Souders' fictitious account of Lydia and Calvin, my mother presented me with an enameled love token that had been passed down to her years ago from her grandmother. One look at that love token, and that eerie feeling of déjà vu prompted me to read Edgar's article over again. The accompanying photograph portrays the uncanny similarity of the two pieces, with nearly identical artwork and styling.

The latter token is fashioned on the more typical Liberty Seated Dime, with a soldered pin mount nearly obliterating the date. Only 187_ (no arrows) is visible. On the 'front', the initials L and C appear to be nearly identical to those on Edgar's piece, with the ornate border and field treatments quite similar, although providing slightly less detail and ornamentation on the smaller piece.

Unlike Mr. Souders' token, however, we need no longer speculate on the origin of the initials L and C. My great grandmother, born Charlotte Brown Cranston on February 19, 1861 in Prince Edward Island, Canada, moved to the United



Love Token engraved on an 1876-CC
Liberty Seated Dime Ahwash A6 (R7) -
Doubled OF AMERICA.

States and settled in the Boston, Massachusetts area around 1880, at the age of about twenty. She met my great grandfather, William Harvey Purdy, while there, and they were married August 15, 1888, after which they moved to Newton, Massachusetts. Charlotte Cranston, or 'Lottie' as she preferred, was presented this love token, with her initials LC, by her fiancé.

It is intriguing to speculate that both love tokens were created by the same artisan, as the styling is quite similar. Although countless thousands of love tokens were fashioned during the nineteenth century, the majority of which displayed initials, it is unlikely that two so strikingly similar tokens could have been created by two individuals completely unbeknownst to each other.



Given to Charlotte 'Lottie' Brown Cranston ('LC') by fiancé William Harvey Purdy, circa 1880.

So was my great grandfather the dishonorable scoundrel imagined by Mr. Souders? I prefer to think that he was a numismatic pioneer, in addition to being a romanticist. After all, his love token - an expression of his deep and abiding love for his betrothed - was detailed on the reverse of what appears to be an Ahwash A6 1876-CC doubled obverse Liberty Seated Dime, currently listed as R7, with all letters in OF AMERICA strongly doubled. What greater sacrifice could a numismatist offer to his bride to be?

Scoundrel, indeed!



The 1808 O102 Bust Half

Jeffrey L. Oertel

Several years ago, I ordered a coin via the mail and opened the package in hopes of finding an '1808 Bust Half, VF' that would make my eyes glitter. There is a certain amount of suspense when opening a package of coins received through the mail. In this case, the coin I ordered was a letdown; a dog. Maybe it was the nice weather outdoors, the telephone or some other distraction, but I set the half aside to move on to better things.

A few days later I returned to the 1808, with the same disappointment, contemplating its return. The 'VF' was possibly a Fine, and with the scratches, it netted a lesser grade. I opened my Overton book (second edition) in hopes of discovering a rarity. The reverse had an obvious die crack to the left of the eagle's body below the wing. Closer examination revealed the center dot on the shield as described by Mr. Overton. After reviewing the other possibilities, it was clear that O102 was the only choice.

Now O102a was described as having some pretty major cracks on both sides which set it apart from the O102. Without looking too carefully, I believed mine to be the O102: an R3 either way. I then remembered to check the then newly published supplement to Overton issued by the Bust Half Nut Club. To my disappointment the R3 was reduced to an R2. The half dollar set in my desk drawer for days, perhaps weeks.

I realized much later that I should have returned the coin. It was now probably too late, or I was too lazy or too busy. The coin eventually ended up at the back of my box of other, nicer bust halves in the bank vault, and has sat there since.

This fall I decided to take a look at some of my older purchases, referencing the new Overton book. I thought that with all the nice sized illustrations, I might find something interesting. I started organizing and rifling through the halves, all neatly resting in their mylar bags and carefully stuffed in the Kraft envelopes. All were noted with date, rarity, purchase date and other notes that only I would find legible, or of interest.

I pulled out the 1808. Unlike all the other bust halves, I had not inserted the 1808 into a mylar bag. Perhaps it was due to the cleaning, or that I did not care. It had taken on a nice tone from all the years in the paper envelope. It still remained the 'dog' of my collection, but not quite the dog it used to be (time heals all wounds, they say, and coins too, I suppose).

I turned to page 131 of the current edition of Overton and looked at the plate coin. "That is not my coin," I thought, noting it was the O102a that was illustrated. The irony for me was that the die breaks actually made the plate coin more interesting. I then looked above Liberty's head and saw the 'R.5' in print, referring to the O102. Was this my coin? I did a double-take, since 3s can look like 5s after looking through a glass too long. Somehow, in the last few years, the R3 that was changed to an R2 was now an R5. Now that is my kind of inflation.

Further, I read that "This obverse without die crack is RARE". Wow! I love that word, rare.

Since I was raised to believe that nothing comes free and that if it seems too good to be true, it probably is, I thought I better double and triple check the 1808. Sure enough, there is the slightest evidence of a die crack, which cannot be seen with the naked eye, developing at the side of the 0 in 1808. The other die cracks referred to, on the reverse for example, are not to be seen on this coin.

So here is my question to one of you bust 'Nuts': If a barely perceptible die break occurs on the O102, is it a O102a or an O102?

Regardless, I have become quite attached to this little lady of 1808. I have not had this much fun with a woman of her type in years. Sure she is a bit worn out and imperfect compared to all the others lined up in their mylar bags and Kraft envelopes with the dates, notes and symbols, but the 1808 and I now have a history, a relationship of sorts. Whether an R3 or R5, I have become attached to this coin. Maybe not so much for its beauty or rarity (if any), but because I have learned quite a bit from her, and am anxious to learn more. The 1808 now rests in a mylar bag, inserted into a Kraft paper envelope, in a place of honor, toward the front of the box of other bust halves.

*[ed. - Keep in mind that the rarity ratings in Al C. Overton's **Early Half Dollar Die Varieties**, Third Edition, are the rarities for that die state and not necessarily for that die marriage. The true rarity of a marriage is usually the lower of the die states, or less. For example, the 1808 O102 (without cracks) is an R5 and the O102a (with cracks) is an R2. They are both the same die marriage (struck from the same die paring) therefore the die marriage is truly an R2.]*



QUARTER CENSUS

Russell J. Logan

In a year that other numismatists might describe as 'ho-hum', collectors of U.S. Federal silver coins were actively pursuing their hobby, establishing new records for the seemingly endless supply of rare varieties being offered at auction. Starting in January 1992, Bowers and Merena offered the Brilliant collection of Bust Half Dollars. This auction was followed five months later by Superior's offering of Richard Pugh's Bust Half Collection. In November, Bowers and Merena offered the Miller collection of Bust Quarters. Although there were 74 different die marriages represented in this sale, the overall condition averaged only F-VF. The other Bust Quarter sale since our last census was Bowers and Merena's offering of the Fred Matthews collection on November 13, 1990. Fred's collection had 51 different die marriages (missing only 8 die marriages from the 1815-1828 series) but a respectable grade average of 47. Both collections offered some high quality rare Bust Quarter die marriages. JRCS collectors were well represented at both sales and bid vigorously for the rarer marriages in EF+ condition. And then Bowers' quarter sale was followed two weeks later by Stack's Bust Dime sale. 'Ho-hum' was far from accurate to describe the prices realized for the better marriages in any of the above mentioned sales.

In addition to several 'new' additions to the census, you may have noticed that we've added an additional column at the right. Because the number of collectors responding to this census outnumbered the available columns, we elected to include a column depicting the number of coins counted for a given die marriage based on all 21 responses to the census. Although some collections are not shown, they are included in the three summary columns shown on the right.

Our next census will be the Pre-Turban Half Dollars (1794-1807). Of all the censuses published to date, the early half dollars have generated the greatest response; this will be our next endeavor - hopefully in the July edition of the **JR Journal**. In submitting your census, please give us your comments on whether you would like to see a R5-R8 census of the Capped Bust Halves and if you would participate. Several of our members have written and asked why we do not publish a census on our most popular series. Listing 453 die marriages could be boring, not to mention long (it would take 10 pages). But a R5-R8 census (fewer than 50 pieces) would be quite manageable and very informative. Please send us your thoughts.

QUARTER CENSUS

Jan-93

Based on 21 censuses submitted

R#			006	181	007	002	012	323	014	003	305	282	048	131	283	116	028	PCS	AVG	MAX
1796	1	6	50	15														3	40	55
	2	3	20	8									3					4	18	40
1804	1	4	20	8	40	8	10		6	20	12	4	4	15				11	13	40
	2	6	18	30	8	8	3	10					3					7	11	30
1805	1	5	20	8	50	12	6	6				12	15					9	15	50
	2	3	30	15	45	10	15	8	10		30		15					11	21	45
	3	1	40	20	45	10	15	8	4		20		8			8		10	18	45
	4	4	45	40	60	10	35	4			10	10	4		15			11	22	60
	5	7	30	4	6	10	12	10	3				30					9	12	30
1806	1	2	40	20	40	10	10	8	20		20	12	3	10	8			13	17	40
	2	4	30	20	50	12	25	12	20				15	10				10	23	50
	3	1	40	15	50	15	30	8	8	30		10	35					11	23	50
	4	4	25	20	45	10	8	6	4			12	15					10	16	45
	5	6	20	12	45	10	25	6					8		8			8	17	45
	6	6	40	8	25		10	4					8					7	18	40
	7	3	40	8		20	20		4			10						6	17	40
	8	7	30	8	45	12	6	8				10	3					8	15	45
	9	1	40	30	35	8	10	6	3		15	12						10	19	40
	10	5	40	20	45	15	10	6	20			6	5					10	17	45
1807	1	3	30	40	50	10	45	4	4	40	20	12		10	25		50	14	26	50
	2	3	10	15	55	6	25	10	4		20	15			3			13	15	55
1815	1	1	45	55	55	30	45	12	30	45	45	20		15		15		16	31	55
1818	1	2	25	50	63	15	25	6	6	20	15	6			55	12	40	17	25	63
	2	1	60	45	60	30	45	12	8	20	40	10	8		20	12		16	29	60
	3	2	50	62	50	25	12	12	12	20	40		20		8		40	13	30	62
	4	2	40	50	55	25	40	8	30	25	55	12			45	10		16	29	55
	5	4	35	40	40	25	50	12	20	40	45		40		10		15	15	28	50
	6	5	50	63	50	30	20	12	15			15			35	12		12	27	63
	7	4	15	40	6	25	30	8	8	25		15			55	8		11	21	55
	8	3	40	53	45	20	53	20	15	40	40				20	15	40	15	32	53
	9	6	35	30	58		40	10	10	12		8	8	25	40	8		14	22	58
	10	4	30	40	50	25	30	12	20	30	35	20	10			12		17	21	50

QUARTER CENSUS

Jan-93

Based on 21 censuses submitted

R#			006	181	007	002	012	323	014	003	305	282	048	131	283	116	028	PCS	AVG	MAX
1819	1	5	20	40	50	10	12	30	8		55			10	35	6		11	25	55
	2	3	45	45	45	20	25	8	6	15	25	30	10	15	50	8		17	22	50
	3	1	35	55	40	25	50	10	50	30	30	20	45			12		14	34	55
	4	5	40	8	12	30	35	8	4	45		8		15	55	3	45	14	23	55
1820	1	3	45	45	58	20	12	10	20	30	50	10	8		12	12	55	17	27	58
	2	2	30	45	55	20	15	20	8		40	12	12			12		12	27	60
	3	3	30	30	40	30	18	8	20			10	10	12		12		12	19	40
	4	2	45	53	40	35	50	8	20	15	55	10	8		50	12	20	15	29	55
	5	5	25	50	50	12	25	10	8	20								8	25	50
1821	1	2	40	30	55	35	40	12	6	20	40				8	15		12	26	55
	2	3	50	45	50	20	35	15	15	45	40	10			30			11	32	50
	3	2	40	55	40	30	40	15	20	25	58	25	15	15	35	15		16	29	58
	4	3	40	30	45	25	18	8	6	45	30	10		15	30	15	50	16	27	63
	5	5	50	62	45	30	35	10	15	40						12		9	33	62
	6	7	25		8													2	17	25
1822	1	2	40	50	55	30	55	25	25	25	25	12		25	20	20	40	18	29	55
	2	5	25	8	20		12		8	12		8		6				8	12	25
1823	1	6	8	4	55					10		8						5	17	55
1824	1	3	30	30	58	20	40	10	12	25	35	10		10	50	8	40	15	26	58
1825	1	5	30	30	20	30	25	20	25		35				50	10		10	28	50
	2	2	50	45	50	20	45	12	35	25	35	12		15	40	10	40	17	28	50
	3	3	60	50	58	35	35	15	30	12	35			20		15		13	30	60
1827	1	7			60													1	60	60
	2	6																0	0	0
1828	1	1	50	60	53	30	40	45	20	12	40	10		12	15	12	40	17	29	60
	2	3	45	45	58	25	30	10	18					10	50			10	30	58
	3	3	55	58	63	30	12	8	15	20		12			15	8		12	28	63
	4	3	60	50	50	35	20	20	45	40		10	15	12	20	12		14	29	60

QUARTER CENSUS

Jan-93

Based on 21 censuses submitted

R#			006	181	007	002	012	323	014	003	305	282	048	131	283	116	028	PCS	AVG	MAX
1831	1	3	50	63	55	20	35	35	15	15				18			35	11	36	63
	2	2	45	40	65	45	40	40	40	35	58	20					45	12	44	65
	3	5	50	55	45	35		12		15	40		8					8	33	55
	4	1	45	45	60	30	50	45	30	45	45	15						13	41	60
	5	3	50	62	55	20	50	35	30	15	40	12		30	40		40	14	37	62
	6	3	50	50	60	30	45	35	30	15	20			30				10	37	60
	7	7		4	20													3	26	55
1832	1	1	50	50	60	20	45	20	30	12	40			40				12	39	60
	2	2	45	55	55	35	40		40	45	35	30		35		15	30	13	39	55
1833	1	2	50	55	50	25	35	30	40	45	30				45		40	13	40	61
	2	1	50	63	63	40	30	20	20	12		15		20			40	13	37	63
1834	1	1	50	63	45	20	40	15	40	20	50	20	50	35				16	36	63
	2	4	58	45	60	35	25	20		20				15				10	33	60
	3	3	50	40	45	40	35	30	20	40	45	25	20				20	12	34	50
	4	1	55	63	40	25	40	15	20	12	35			25			50	14	40	63
	5	5	50	40	58	30	10	15	40	45			8				20	10	32	58
1835	1	1	50	50	50	25	35	35	25	15	45	40	30				20	13	34	50
	2	2	40	45	55	35	35	20	30	50	40	10						12	38	60
	3	4	40	40	20	12		20	15	25		12		40				9	25	40
	4	3	40	50	55	25	20	30	30	40			15	30				10	34	55
	5	3	58	63	50	30	50	30	12	15	30	15		15				14	33	63
	6	3	50	45	40	40	45	25	10	25	50	15						12	34	50
	7	2	55	50	45	25	25	20	30	10	40						40	11	36	60
	8	4	50	30	45	30		10	35	30	45							8	34	50
1836	1	2	45	55	61	20	40	15	40	15			30					10	36	61
	2	3	45	40	62	25	45	10	30	40	58	15	20				45	12	36	62
	3	1	55	64	50	35	50	15	40	40	40			30	20		15	14	37	64
	4	5	45	45	50	45	30	35	10			10		35	15		40	14	32	50
	5	7	30	15							15			10				4	18	30

QUARTER CENSUS

Jan-93

Based on 21 censuses submitted

R#			006	181	007	002	012	323	014	003	305	282	048	131	283	116	028	PCS	AVG	MAX
1837	1	4	50	50	55	30	30	20	40	20	40		30	20				11	35	55
	2	1	50	60	55	25	50	20	35	40	45					20		11	42	60
	3	5	50	45	40	25		8	20	40	35	20	20	8				11	28	50
	4	5	55	30	62	40	20	15	30	20	40		12	40			40	14	31	62
	5	6	45	12	40	12	15	12				8	8					8	19	45
1838	1	1	45	63	55	25	55	30	30	40	35	25		35		30	40	16	41	63

		006	181	007	002	012	323	014	003	305	282	048	131	283	116	028			
OWNED		92	92	90	84	83	83	78	64	57	55	41	39	35	33	29	95		
AVG. GRADE		41	39	47	24	30	16	20	27	37	14	15	20	29	12	37	KNOWN VARIETIES		
R#	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	14	14	11	6	8	3	7	6			
1		48	50	51	25	39	20	25	27	38	18	29	27	18	16	34			
R#	16	16	16	16	16	16	15	16	14	15	11	6	5	10	9	9			
2		43	48	52	27	34	17	25	27	39	15	15	20	31	13	37			
R#	24	24	24	22	23	23	22	23	18	16	16	9	13	12	9	9			
3		43	41	52	24	32	17	17	29	36	14	13	17	29	12	42			
R#	11	11	11	11	11	9	10	9	8	6	6	7	5	3	2	1			
4		36	34	43	20	27	12	19	26	31	12	17	20	27	10	15			
R#	14	14	14	14	13	12	13	12	8	5	7	6	6	5	5	4			
5		39	36	43	26	20	14	17	30	41	11	11	19	38	8.6	36			
R#	8	7	7	6	3	5	5	1	2	0	3	5	1	2	1	0			
6		31	16	39	10	19	9	10	11	0	8	7	25	24	8	0			
R#	6	4	4	5	2	2	2	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0			
7		29	7.8	28	11	9	9	3	0	15	10	17	10	0	0	0			

(continued from page 15)

presumably to test the quality of the new design. Three of the five reverses used to strike dimes in 1831 had the double stripes and the double stripe reverses were used exclusively in the dime series beginning in 1832.

The silver half dime series resumed in 1829 with 10 different reverses being used to strike half dimes with this date. Only three of these reverses had triple stripes, the other seven possessing a design with double stripes. It has been determined that the triple stripes reverses were the first used to strike 1829 half dimes since pieces struck from those reverses have an edge reeding gauge that was never used again in the series. It can be concluded that mint officials quickly realized that the triple stripe reverse would not hold up to strong minting pressures and therefore quickly abandoned it in favor of the sturdier double stripe design.

With the double stripe reverse now being used to strike bust dimes and half dimes, it must have seemed appropriate to experiment with the new design in the bust quarter series. However, the quarter was larger than either the dime or the half dime, making the triple stripe design more durable for striking coins in this series. A study of the reverses in the small size bust quarter series does not show any serious deterioration of the vertical stripes in the reverse shield. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that mint officials felt that there was no immediate need to change to the double stripe design. Even though the triple stripe reverse was used through 1838 in the bust quarter series, the new double stripe design was adopted with the introduction of the Liberty Seated Quarter later that same year.

I know of no attempt to revise the reverse of the bust half dollar, then using the triple stripe reverse. Reverse shields with triple stripes continued to be used on half dollars until the end of the Liberty Seated series in 1891, but changes were made in the reverse of some gold denominations. Capped Bust Half Eagles had a triple stripe reverse until 1834. A double stripe reverse was adopted for Classic Half Eagles beginning in 1834. Surprisingly, the triple stripe reverse was used on Classic Quarter Eagles when they were introduced in 1834, even though they were considerably smaller in size than the half eagles. The conversion to the double stripe reverse was not accomplished until 1838 in the gold quarter eagle series.

A study of the coins from the small denomination gold and silver Bust series indicate that the mint was having trouble with die deterioration on the triple stripe reverses. To solve this problem, the reverse design was changed to a double stripe reverse for these series during the period from 1829 to 1838. The double stripe bust quarter reverse used to strike the 1833 B2 and 1834 B1 quarters would seem to be the initial attempt by the mint to introduce this new design into the quarter series. While the intention of mint officials may never really be known, this reverse does provide the opportunity for speculation as to its proper place in the bust quarter series.



More Multiple Marriages . . . A Triple-Double Reverse Die

Mark Smith

In modern basketball parlance, the 'triple-double' distinction belongs to a player who achieves double figures in three out of four statistical categories - scoring, rebounding, assists, and steals. The early Mint had its own definition of this phrase, as demonstrated by the Capped Bust Half Dimes of 1835 and 1836.

One of the most dramatic, shattered-die reverses of this series belongs to the 1836 V5 variety, which displays a retained-cud within a retained-cud. The discovery of a V5 without these reverse defects prompted this study into their evolution. The results yielded some surprises, in that there appeared no less than three obverse dies that were married to a single reverse on at least two separate occasions each, with other die combinations being struck in the interim - or a Triple Double!!

Now, let's back up, slow down, and start from the beginning.

The early Mint maintained efficiency in the use of dies and would re-use them in seemingly random combinations for Bust Half Dime coinage. With a limited number of dies available for use at a given time, the probability was high that multiple marriages of the same two dies could, and would, occur.

J. Alan Bricker⁽¹⁾ has discovered and previously explained this phenomenon, and identified multiple marriages with the 1829 V4, V5, and V17 reverse die. Valentine,⁽²⁾ in his reference work, also documented re-pairing of the 1832 V5/1833 V4 reverse.

Without question, there are others.

The reverse die, herein studied, was paired with four known, different obverse dies during its lifetime, three dated 1835 and the 1836 V5. Valentine identified all four known varieties and designated the 1835's as V4, V5, and V6. This die bears the 'Large 5C.' reverse with denomination punches matching most 'Large 5C.' reverse dies used in the later years of the series.



1836 V5 Shattered Reverse -
Reverse is easily identified by the shape of the flag on the 5, and the relationship between 5 C. and the central device. Also, ED touch; A1 is counterclockwise; T3 is low; O is low; ME touch and RI touch, with I2 slightly low.

Nineteen examples of this reverse were accumulated for study under microscope; three 1835 V4's, six 1835 V5's, three 1835 V6's, and seven 1836 V5's. Many additional coins, usually 1835's, were studied during perusals through a multitude of bourses for a period of nearly two years, and served to substantiate the observations presented.

When describing die defects in this progression, many minor defects seem to appear and disappear during the die's life, as a result of clashing, light polishing, and/or normal die wear. For this reason, only the major characteristics are listed below, as they seem sufficient to determine emission order.

The unlikely order presents itself as follows: 1835 V4, 1835 V5 (first marriage), 1835 V6 (first marriage), 1835 V5 (second marriage), 1836 V5 (first marriage), 1835 V6 (second marriage), and finally 1836 V5 (second marriage, with the shattered reverse). The defects described below are cumulative and are listed in order of manufacture of the available coins.

1835 V4 This variety appears to be the first use of this reverse, showing strong dentils and berry stems. The reverse of this variety is defect free under normal magnification, and only shows very minor cracks under microscopic inspection. Many of these cracks disappear later. The V4 is the lone variety observed without a remarriage.



Nearly perfect reverse state, with no trace of a rim crack between D-S1.

- 1835 V5 **First Marriage:** Strong stems; strong dentils; distinct clash lines over eagle's head and under right wing; light die crack from dentil to scroll between D-S1; light die cracks T3 to scroll, dentil to O to scroll, RI at base.



Clashed; very faint die crack from rim between D-S1.

- 1835 V6 **First Marriage:** Half of upper stem missing; dentils weaker; strong clash lines; die cracks at D-S1, O are slightly stronger; light die crack left wing tip to rim.



Clashed; die cracks get stronger.

1835 V5

Second Marriage: Half of upper stem missing; clash lines are still strong; faint crack T1 to corner of scroll; rim cracks at O, M, E3, I2, A2.



Rim cracks develop at several letters. Die crack at D-S1 is still heavier. Later states of this marriage are similar to the next photo.

Half of upper stem missing; clash lines are still distinct; die crack at D-S1 advances further; die crack T3 to scroll.

No upper stem; clash lines appear lighter; cracks at left wing tip, D-S1 become stronger.

Lumps form at top of scroll over E. PL. (The beginning of the end?)

The following marriage marks the first appearance of the 1836 obverse, and presumably, all marriages hereafter (and conceivably, some previous listings) were struck in 1836 or later.

1836 V5 **First Marriage:**⁽³⁾ No upper stem; stronger crack T1 to scroll with minor lumps at top of scroll over E PLUR; die crack D-S1 splits, causing a triangular lump at scroll over L in PLURIBUS; faint crack right end of scroll to top of right wing; clash lines are present but blurred.



Strong crack at rim-T1-scroll; triangular lump at scroll over L; lumps over E PLUR.

Die is slightly offset in relief at the D-S1 crack; light crack at right wing tip. (Some previously listed rim cracks are not visible, either due to die lapping, lower condition of the specimen, or both).

Additional die crack rim to T1; lumps over E PL are stronger.

At this point, the reverse die has clashed several times and displays numerous strong cracks and lumps. It is difficult to believe that it was not removed from the press and discarded; nevertheless, as was often the tradition in this series, it was destined to be used until complete ruination, for two additional re-marriages. Incidentally, during the previous marriage, the obverse die also developed a significant bisecting die crack, but was also forced into further service.

Valentine identified a significantly later state of the 1835 V6⁽⁴⁾, which he cataloged as 6a and described as follows:

“ . . . but there is a bad die break from T to ribbon and to edge between D and S . . . ”

Valentine's V6a plate coin clearly illustrates the described rim break, where it is obviously in relief from the fields surrounding it. The following marriage matches this description and the plate coin.

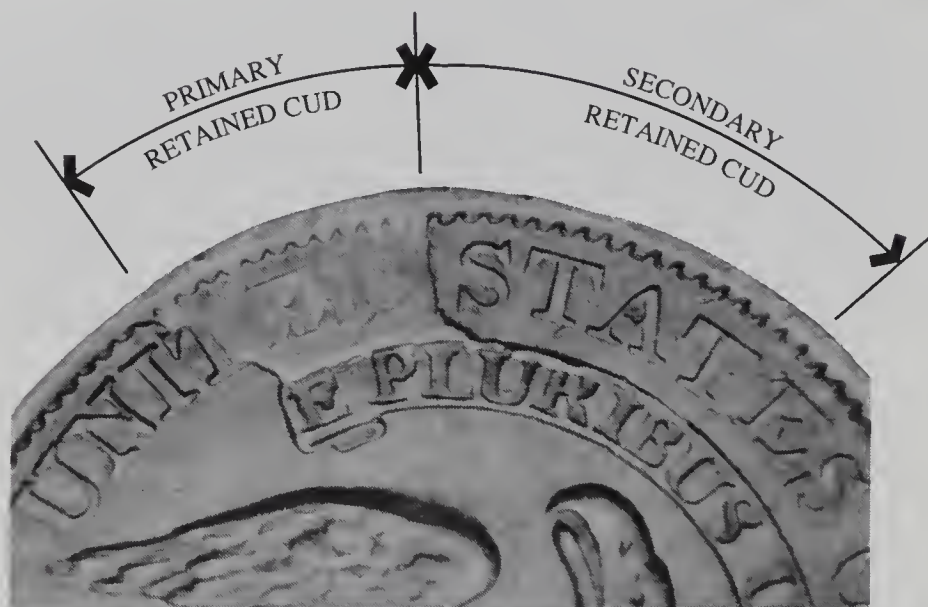
1835 V6 **Second Marriage:** No upper stem, weaker lower stem; clashing not visible; retained-cud TED, secondary retained-cud STAT, with fields in relief at both locations; strong lumps at T1, scroll at E PL, and lighter lumps URIB to intersection with the crack at T3; triangular defect above L is visible in higher relief than the raised field of the retained-cud at TED; lump at top left serif of E2.



Retained cud at TED becomes obvious, and secondary retained cud at STAT begins to develop; TED is still fairly strong on higher grade specimens.

After its brief hiatus, the 1836 obverse was re-inserted to produce the final 1836 V5 - one of the more spectacular shattered-die varieties of the Capped Bust Half Dime series.

1836 V5 **Second marriage:** Retained-cud at TED advances to the point where it is nearly level with the scroll and TED is nearly obliterated; secondary retained-cud at STAT advances slightly; stronger lumps URIB, E2.



Retained cuds worsen. (Note that offset in die at T3-E2 does not show clearly on photo.)

The reverse die soon shattered, was graciously retired . . . Or is there another variety or remarriage to be discovered?

And the **Triple-Double** was accomplished!

On all late-state coins in grades VF or above, portions of the reverse detail at areas identified as retained-cuds are visible; therefore, these broken portions of the die remained in the press. Reverse defects on lower grade coins from the 1835 V6 (second marriage) onward can be easily mistaken for full cuds, particularly at TED.

There are no aspirations that the die state progression above is complete, as there are surely a myriad of intermediate die states. Also, it would be a delight (but not a complete shock) to see a coin with a full rim cud at TED, and extending to STATE. The discovery of this, another new state, or a new variety, could easily alter, and possibly overhaul, this listing.

Sharing of information with fellow collectors often spawns additional information. Special thanks go to Russell J. Logan, J. Alan Bricker, James Matthews, Larry Blackwelder, Bradley S. Karoleff, and Stephen Crain, who assisted in fleshing out and prompted the flushing out of this article.

Should other collectors have information which can contribute to the emission sequence described above, please contact me at P.O. Box 1117, Conover, NC 28613.

[ed. - Photography by J. T. Stanton, Savannah, Georgia.]

Bibliographies and Footnotes:

- (1) J. Alan Bricker, *1829 V4, V5 and V17: A Palindromic Emission Sequence?* in **JR Journal**, Volume 7, Issue 1 (October, 1992), pp. 26-31.
- (2) Daniel W. Valentine, **The United States Half Dimes**, with additional material by Harold P. Newlin, Will W. Neil and Doug Winter (Sanford J. Durst, Long Island City, NY, 1984).
- (3) The obverse of the 1836 V5 (first marriage) is seen with a bisecting obverse crack. Earliest states display only microscopic traces of this crack in protected areas, and the crack does not extend into the fields above and below the central device. No sign of the crack can be seen at the 6 in the date.
- (4) It was a fairly common practice of the early Mint to use obverse dies in later years, thus rendering the published mintage figures suspect.



Updated Reprint of Browning: A Review

Russell J. Logan

When the original edition of *The Early Quarter Dollars of the United States* was published in 1925, by A. W. Browning, it was accepted by the collecting fraternity as a first class effort, complete with photographic plates. The descriptions of the dies were sufficient to determine the variety of a quarter on the bourse floor without having to compare the newly found specimen with the reference collection back home. Only Haseltine (1881) had previously attempted to identify the quarter dollars by die variety. Browning's original book was a masterpiece. This numismatic reference book has stood the test of time as witnessed by the numerous reprints by Ford, Durst and now Q. David Bowers. A more recent quarter book (Duphorne, 1975) describing the die marriages from 1796 to 1838 has been totally ignored by the collecting fraternity.

In this reprint, Bowers has taken Browning's original text for each of the varieties, less the mintage figures, and supplemented this information with a twice-life-size photos from the original Browning photographic glass plates. He then added comments and observations by Walter Breen. These comments include additional diagnostics, progression of die states, probable emission order, a pedigree listing of the finer known examples and rarity ratings based on the Sheldon scale. In addition to this, Robert W. Miller, Sr. has included a six coin condition census for each variety.

My first curiosity after receiving this book was checking out the four key years. As most students of U. S. silver Federal coinage know, the 1796 quarters are numismatically the most overrated coin issued by the Mint. Breen labeled 1796 B2 as a R3 which is consistent with reality. His comment that Col. E. H. R. Green had a total of 200 Uncirculated 1796's should make some collectors take note. The pedigree list for B2 is so long that Breen does not include it with this manuscript. On the other hand, Breen assigns a Rarity of 6 for the B1 variety and then provides a list of 17 EF+ coins. As a year 1796 is probably a R2.

The 1804's are almost as plentiful as the 1896's, with the B2 variety being the most desirable. Walter lists eleven examples of the B2; the highest grade being VF-25. Unfortunately this list does not include the EF example that Larry Briggs offered for sale at the 1991 Chicago ANA.

The 1823 quarter has always been recognized as a major rarity and frequently photographed, even in the B. Max Mehl and S. H. & H. Chapman days. Breen has done an admirable job listing them. Although there are only 21 examples (from Uncirculated to Good) listed,

I still suspect some duplication. This because the photograph of H. O. Granberg's piece in B. Max Mehl's sale of July 14, 1913 (lot 133) clearly shows the two scratches from the second star to the neck as described as specimen #15. Does this mean that #6 and #15 are one and the same? We must wait for Dave Davis' dissertation on the 1823's to know for sure.

The 1827 'originals' are unchanged from the Encyclopedia, but the 'restrikes' have the Reed and Norweb coins added. Still there is no discussion as to why the State I examples were struck over Heraldic Eagle Quarters. This is a mystery that requires attention from one of our readers.

The most significant new information that this reprint offers us is stated in the write up of 1824 on page 97: "Reverse of 1823, reworked by Kneass: upper arrow shaft normal, lowest arrow shaft normal but with die file mark from lower barb toward olive stem". This discovery, made by David Rungren in November 1990, unveils the fact that the 1823 reverse working die was altered before striking the more common 1824, 1825 and 1828 quarters. The arrowheads and shafts were re-engraved to appear 'normal' and a short die line was slipped into the third arrowhead at the lower barb. This fact not only establishes that the 1823's were made prior to the 1824's, but also infers that the Mint had the ability to anneal, rework and reharden the dies. This consequently, could be a major discovery in this series and deserves more than a one line statement. This topic is ripe for a future article in the Journal.

The majority of the photographs are on the dark side obscuring much of the coin's detail, and photographs of the die marriages not in Browning tend to be of lower grade examples. This is indeed unfortunate as it detracts from the overall usefulness of the book. In an effort to conserve space, the editor elected not to segregate each marriage per page. With all the font changes taking place on every page, it is sometimes difficult to decipher who is saying what about a particular marriage.

Breen makes some interesting observations pertaining to the emission order for the large sized Capped Bust series but stops short of declaring a sequence for the series.

The decision to include a condition census for this series was a double edged sword. What the average reader does not understand is that an accurate census is impossible without 50+ years of continual documentation with virtually every high grade piece being photographed and attributed. Just ask Del Bland if you don't believe me. Even with all the documentation that the large cents have received over the past 100+ years, it is still difficult to maintain the pedigree of the commoner varieties. Because a 'condition census' denotes a factual ranking of condition, the commercial sector attempts to promote their wares based

on that 'information'. Not only are there new rare marriages being discovered each year - some by closet collectors - but some of the past rarities were misattributed. For instance, the Goodman:950 EF example of 1837 B3 is actually a B2!

The attempt to include all the most recent information on Bust Quarters has created a perplexing paradox. Back in 1954 when Breen published his Notes on Early Quarter Dollars in the **Numismatic Scrapbook**, he described a new variety of an 1818 quarter which became known as 'B11'. By the early 1970's this variety was determined to be an early die state of B3 as noted on page 55 of this book. Then again, in the late 1970's, Breen 'discovered' another 1818 'B11' having the same obverse as the original 'B11' but with a new reverse as described on page 65. Ten years later Jules Reiver stated that he did not include it in his **VIM** manual because it could not be verified. It would have been best to have deleted all references to 'B11' (old & new) from this book, or if absolutely necessary, made reference to a possible new marriage at the beginning of the year.

Despite its shortcomings, this book is a must for anyone who collects Bust Quarters; it hopefully will inspire someone to start with a clean sheet of paper, and complete what Browning started to do 65 years ago.



United States Gazette Philadelphia January 11, 1816

About 2:00 this morning, fire broke out in a part of the back building belonging to the Mint of the United States, the cause totally unknown. The machinery employed in preparing the gold and silver bullion for coinage has suffered considerable injury, but little or no loss, either in the bullion or coins of the precious metals, will be sustained.

The front part of the building containing the coining presses, the book and clerk's office, with the engraver's and assayer's apartment, is uninjured.

The director and other officers of the establishment tender their warmest thanks to the fire company and other diligent citizens for their prompt and successful exertions in extinguishing this alarming fire.

[ed. - Frank H. Stewart's *History of the first US Mint*, 1974 Quarterman reprint]



Capped Bust Half Dollar Secrets: The Numerals

Edgar E. Souders

DISCLAIMER:

If any of the following is actually right, I probably stole it from someone else and have forgotten who. If I have it all wrong, I am not yet aware of that fact and wish to apologize, in advance, for any and all damage caused to your life by following the advice of this researcher.

Writing an article about Capped Bust Halves is fraught with danger. There are so many diehard aficionados that you run the risk of getting car-bombed with every word you write. State that you have done new research and all of academia is after you. Prove that an 'etched in stone' theory is incorrect, and the complaining 'regulars' come out of the woodwork. I feel particularly belligerent today, though, so let us once again cross over that line . . .

In Volume 1, Issue 3 (September, 1986) of the **JR Journal**, I wrote of the 'filled' legend letters on the half dollars of 1807-1836, and hopefully, more importantly, how they came about. Interestingly, the numerals also have a story to tell.

Each numeral punch was very crude and incomplete (very much like the letter punches used on the reverse), and often the use of an scorper graver, small partial punch or actual engraving was necessary to complete the numeral. This is where all of the varieties and styles of numeral figures came into play during the reign of the Capped Bust Half series.

The early dates show the most in the way of variety in digit differences, and there was very good reason for this. At the beginning of the series the punches were in their 'crudest' form. Every digit was touched up in one way or another. On February of 1819 the Mint purchased a set of new letter and numeral punches from Mr. Richard Starr. These punches were also very crude and incomplete. By the end of the series though, new smaller, more complete punches, were used and there is much less in the way of numeral variety.

Studying the numerals are fun, interesting and quite a learning experience, so let's cover each digit and bring out some of the more intriguing points about each.

Numeral 1's.

This digit comes to us with a flat top and a curved, pointed (peaked) top. Generally speaking, the 1 figure was touched-up by hand which resulted in the 1's varying in height, thickness, and serif length.

The first usage of the 1 punch in 1807 shows that the left foot of the numeral was missing (see O111 & O113). Some varieties for 1808 also show this fascinating trait (go look for them . . . this is the fun part!).

In 1811 the flat top 1's made their appearance and the 'feet' were added by hand. By 1819 the 'powers that be' purchased new punches from Richard Starr and this took us back to the pointed or peaked 1 style . . . although larger. In the early 1820's a new set of punches was purchased from Henry Starr (same supplier), and in 1825 both the taller and shorter 1 punches were used. The shorter and taller 1 versions were used indiscriminately, and in one case both were used on the same die! In 1829 the overdate (1829/1827) shows the entire date over another entire date! Here the short 1 digit is over a tall 1. This 1 punch was used until 1834's Small Date, Small Letter half dollars. From this point, to the end of the series, the new small 1 punch was used. (And yes, the feet were still being added by hand).

Numeral 2's.

This digit shows up on the halves in many interesting forms. Curl 2's, Knobbed Top Curl Base 2's, Square Base 2's, etc.

The first use of the 2 punch on the 1812 halves shows the numeral with a square base (but not really a knobbed top). In 1820 the 2 numeral must have become somewhat of a 'nightmare' for the engraver because a new 2 punch digit and hand-cut 2 digits show up on the halves. Most all show touch-up work under magnification. One of the 2 punches broke at the top and this partial punch was used 'as is' with the top portion having been completed by hand engraving. This year also marked the first year for the Curl Base (Curl Top) 2. (Note: O106, O107, and O108 show the new 2 punch). 1823 halves show the use of a new curl top 2 punch. The 1826's 2 figures are a real treat to study. Many square bases show naked eye differences on the upright of the square base. Even to the point that on O104 and O105 the upright appears to be completely missing! In 1828 hand-cut Curl Base 2's (with curl tops) show up, as do the Curled Base Knobbed 2's and Square Base Knobbed 2's.

The exciting 1829/27 overdates (O101 and O102) show the 2 numeral with a smaller Curl Base 2 over a larger Square Base 2. All of the 1832 halves show the use of the Knobbed Top Curled Base 2 from 1829.

Numeral 3's.

Much like the 2 digits, the 3's were punched, hand-cut in entirety, or completed by a combination of both. This is especially noticeable at 30X magnification.

The 1813 halves show (in my opinion) the most artistic flat top style 3's. By 1823 many halves exhibit hand-cut 3's and some show the use of a new 'thinner' 3 punch. All are Curl Tops with Knobbed Bottoms. The 3 digit for the O101 and O102 is from a punch with a broken center section (not a patched 2 punch theory . . . please!).

1830 half dollars show the new Knobbed Top & Bottom 3's from a new punch. This punch was used on all working dies through the Large Date, Large Letters and Small Letters halves of 1834. The rest of the 1834's (Small Date, Small Letters) use the new smaller 'double knobbed' 3 punch. This punch was used through 1836.

Numeral 4's.

The 4 digits were punched, entirely hand-cut (often), and completed by a combination of both methods.

1814 halves show magnificent 4 digits. Often under magnification you can see where they were touched up on the working dies. By 1824, the 4 numerals were both hand-cut and punched. The 4/1 overdates (O101 and O102) show crude hand-cut 4's as does the O109. All of the 4 digits from 1824 visually differ from the 1814's 4 digits because they have no 'vertical bar' at the end of the horizontal crossbar. The 1834 half dollars show that most of the 4 digits on the working dies for this year were hand-cut. The 4 digit must have been a problem for punch makers (keep in mind that everything was crude, even in 1834). In any case, all 1834's have straight ended, horizontal crossbars like that of the 1824's.

Numeral 5's.

This digit was most often punched, but either did not contain the top section or it was most always impressed lightly. Most of the 5 digits show hand-cut tops. Some tops had straight cut ends while others were tapered into a point, much like a triangle. Still others were curved and pointed. High grade half dollars from 1825 often show heavy additional engraving at the top of the 5 digit. Don't forget to view the 5 on the reverse denomination.

The slanted 5 digits on the reverse denomination of the 1807-1819 are very elegant. After these years the straight top and curved top style appeared on upright 5 digits.

Under magnification, the 1815/12 overdates show that the 5 digit was hand-cut over an existing 2 numeral. In 1825, it appears that all dies were made with the use of a new partial 5 punch. Overlays of several half dollars show that the bottoms are identical but the tops are hand-cut or at least heavily reworked with a graver. (Perhaps the top section simply impressed lightly as mentioned earlier). In 1835 a new smaller 5 punch was used, but like the 5 from the 1825's, there is a tremendous amount of reworking around the tops.

Numeral 6's.

These, for the most part, appear to have been totally punched. Nevertheless, you will often notice slight touch-up strengthening.

The 1826 half dollars show the first use of a new 6 punch. (The 9 punch from 1819 was not turned over for the 6 in 1826, as some have speculated, as it is a smaller punch). 1836 halves used the new smaller 6 punch (this, however, could have been a new, smaller 9 punch turned over, or vice-versa, but I have not checked into this. Has anyone done any research or have any comments about this?).

Numeral 7's.

Again, most often a completely punched digit. Still, keep in mind that everything was very crude and much touch-up work was necessary.

The first usage of the 7 punch occurred on the 1807 halves and, again like the 3 digits, it has that classic look. The next appearance, in 1817, shows that a new smaller punch was used and this same 'classic' style was continued. All 1827 halves show a new 7 punch which was incorporated this year and was more elegant.

Numeral 8's.

The 8's were punched, hand-cut, and completed by a combination of both methods. Generally, Large 8's in the early years were hand-cut. The 8 numerals, like the 1 digits, were the most used in the series, and many show touch-up graver strengthening. All 1807 and 1808's show the use of an 8 punch. The 1809's, 1810's and some 1811's use a new 8 digit punch (1811 O103 and O104 appear to have been hand-cut). 1812 halves (and the 1815/12) were hand-cut. 1813's up until the 1817 regular dates use a new 8 punch. 1818's (with the exception of the overdates) use a smaller 8 punch. This punch broke, creating the highly collected 'Pincer 8's' variety (O108). The punch was still used however, and other varieties show this usage with 'corrective engraving' in this void area (O111).

1819's used a new 8 punch. In 1820 a still larger 8 punch was incorporated and this punch seems to have lasted well into 1825. One variety of 1825 (O117) shows the use of a new heavier 8 punch which was the style carried on through the 1834 Large Dates. (Note: The 1829/1827 overdate shows a smaller hand-cut 8 digit over a larger 8 digit). All of the 1834 Small Dates use a new small 8 punch which was used through the end of the series.

Numeral 9's.

The 'artistically corrected' 1809 halves show the 9 digit visually appearing to be leaning to the right. Actually, the 9 digit is more or less straight up and down but the curve of the coin and height of the 9 digit (above the other digits) gives the optical illusion that the 9 leans sharply to the right. In 1819, with this digit's next use, both hand-cut and punched 9's are present. The overdates 9's are hand-cut. The rest use the new 9 punch. All 1829's use a new 9 punch except the 1829/1827 overdate where the 9 is hand-cut over the 7.

Numeral 0's.

In studying the struck halves, both complete punches and freehand cutting shows up in the examination. Large and Small 0's sometime show freehand touch-up work (not double or triple punching).

This punch was used through 1819. In 1820, O101 and O102 have hand-cut 0's. A few of the regular varieties (O104 and O107) appear to have hand-cut 0's also. In 1830 all halves show a new 0 punch with the exception being the Large 0 1830 halves.

These Large 0's appear to have been hand-cut. (Note: Under magnification, O119 shows that the top of the 0 punch broke and hand-cutting of the 0 took place slightly lower than the original punching.)

In conclusion, I am hopeful that this numeral study goes a long way in enabling one to get a more clear picture of some of the problems involved with the creation of our favorite half dollars. Often the halves themselves hold the answers to many of the secrets of the Capped Bust Half. We simply need to think and look.



